

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

**LANCE PHILLIPS, On Behalf of
Himself and All Others Similarly
Situated,**

Plaintiffs,

v.

ACCEL LOGISTICS INC

Defendant.

§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§

Civil Action No. _____

Jury Demanded

COLLECTIVE ACTION COMPLAINT

SUMMARY

1. Lance Phillips worked as a sand coordinator for Accel Logistics Inc (hereinafter referred to as “Accel Logistics”).
2. Although Phillips regularly worked in excess of 40 hours a week, Accel Logistics failed to pay him overtime.
3. Accel Logistics continues to refuse to pay Phillips, or any workers like him, for overtime worked in the past.
4. Additionally, Accel Logistics is still not paying its sand coordinators overtime for hours worked in excess of 40 hours a week.
5. Therefore, Phillips brings this action individually and on behalf of others similarly situated to recover their unpaid overtime as well as other damages.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This Court has federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 29 U.S.C. §216(b).
7. Phillips lives in this District.
8. Phillips worked at Accel Logistics' office in Alvarado, Johnson County Texas, which is in the Dallas Division of the Northern District of Texas.
9. All of the events relevant to the claims in this case occurred in the Northern District of Texas.
10. Venue is therefore proper in the Northern District of Texas.

PARTIES

11. Phillips worked as a sand coordinator dispatchers for Accel Logistics within the past 3 years.
12. Accel Logistics is an oilfield service company.
13. Accel Logistics' gross volume of business exceeded \$500,000.00 each of the last three years.
14. Accel Logistics' employees are engaged in interstate commerce.
15. Accel Logistics is covered by the FLSA for each of the last 3 years.
16. Accel Logistics is therefore obligated to pay its non-exempt employees overtime under the FLSA.
17. Its employees routinely use, handle, sell, and/or work on vehicles, telephones, and hand tools.
18. These items were produced for interstate commerce or actually travelled in interstate commerce.

19. Accel Logistics may be served through its registered agent, Raul Castillo, at 2234 Commerce Dr., Arlington, Texas 76103.

20. The “FLSA Class” consists of “all current and former sand coordinators dispatchers who were employed by Accel Logistics and who were not paid overtime compensation for hours worked over 40 in any workweek during the three-year period preceding the filing of this complaint.”

FACTS

21. Plaintiff, and those similarly situated, routinely worked in excess of 40, 50, and 60 hours per week and more but were not paid all of their overtime wages for doing so because Defendant wrongfully treated them as exempt employees, which they were not.

22. Accel Logistics knew Phillips worked more than 40 hours in certain workweeks because he was scheduled to be at Accel Logistics facilities in excess of 40 hours in certain workweeks.

23. Often Phillips would work over 80 hours in a given week.

24. However, Accel Logistics does not pay its sand coordinators overtime.

25. Instead, Accel Logistics paid Phillips and the other sand coordinators a salary only, and continues this practice with its current sand coordinators.

26. Because they worked over 40 hours a week, Phillips and the other sand coordinators are entitled to recover their unpaid overtime as well as other damages.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

27. In addition to Phillips, Accel Logistics employed other sand coordinators within the past 3 years.

28. Accel Logistics paid all its sand coordinators a salary with no overtime pay.

29. This same pay system Accel Logistics applied to Phillips.

30. The FLSA Class performed job duties similar to the sand coordinator duties performed by Phillips.

31. The FLSA Class is similarly situated to Phillips.

32. The FLSA Class should be notified of this action and given the chance to join pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

33. Absent this action, many members of the FLSA Class likely will not obtain redress of their injuries and Accel Logistics will retain the proceeds of the FLSA violations.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION – FLSA OVERTIME

34. This action is authorized and instituted pursuant to the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 201, *et seq.*

35. All conditions precedent to this suit, if any, have been fulfilled.

36. At all material times, Plaintiff was an employee under the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 203(e).

37. At all material times, the FLSA Class was similarly situated to Phillips.

38. At all material times, Accel Logistics is a covered employer under the FLSA. 29 U.S.C. § 203(d).

39. By failing to pay Phillips and the FLSA Class overtime at 1 and ½ times their regular rates, Accel Logistics violated the FLSA.

40. Accel Logistics owes Phillips and the FLSA Class overtime wages equal to 1 and ½ their regular rates of pay for each overtime hour worked during the last 3 years.

41. Accel Logistics knew, or showed reckless disregard for whether, its failure to pay overtime violated the FLSA.

42. Accel Logistics' failure to pay Phillips and the FLSA Class is willful within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. § 255(a). *See Singer v. City of Waco*, 324 F.3d 813, 821-22 (5th Cir. 2003)

(upholding a jury finding of willfulness). Phillips and the FLSA Class specifically plead recovery for the preceding 3-year period.

43. Accel Logistics have not made a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of 29 U.S.C. § 260. Accordingly, Phillips and the FLSA Class are entitled to liquidated damages.

44. Where, as here, “the employers’ actions or policies were effectuated on a companywide basis, notice may be sent to all similarly situated persons on a companywide basis.” *Ryan v. Staff Care, Inc.*, 497 F. Supp.2d 820, 825 (N.D. Tex. 2007) (certifying nationwide collective action in FLSA case).

45. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks to represent a collective action under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) on behalf of “all current and former sand coordinators who were employed by Accel Logistics and who were not paid overtime compensation for hours worked over 40 in any workweek during the three-year period preceding the filing of this complaint.”

46. Phillips and the FLSA Class are entitled to recover all reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs incurred in this action.

PRAYER

47. Phillips prays for relief as follows:

- a. An order allowing this action to proceed as a collective action under the FLSA and directing notice to the FLSA Class;
- b. Judgment awarding Phillips and the FLSA Class all unpaid overtime compensation, liquidated damages, attorneys’ fees and costs under the FLSA;
- c. An award of post-judgment interest on all amounts awarded at the highest rate allowable by law; and

d. All such other and further relief that Phillips and the FLSA Class are justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Shane McGuire*
SHANE MC GUIRE, Lead Counsel
State Bar No. 24055940
THE MC GUIRE FIRM, PC
102 N. College St., Suite 301
Tyler, Texas 75702
Phone: 903-630-7154
Fax: 903-630-7173
shane@mcmguirefirm.com

and

/s/ *J. Derek Braziel*
J. DEREK BRAZIEL, Local Counsel
State Bar No. 00793380
LEE & BRAZIEL, L.L.P.
1801 N. Lamar Street, Suite 325
Dallas, Texas 75702
Phone: 214-749-1400
Fax: 214-749-1010
jdbraziel@l-b-law.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF